



# Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1995



**IRAQI DEFECTORS:** Two Iraqi infiltrators across the Jordanian border sit in an Israeli jail cell after being caught by Israeli border forces. They defectors hid their faces from the camera saying they did not want their identities known to protect their families back home. They were among more than two dozen Iraqis who crossed illegally to Israel in the past two years. Israel has ordered them deported, but no country is ready to accept them (AFP photo)

## Washington opposes conditions on Russia aid despite dispute over Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The Clinton administration said on Thursday it will oppose efforts by the U.S. Congress to condition aid to Russia even though Moscow has made it clear it plans to proceed with the sale of up to four nuclear reactors to Iran. "I think that Senator [Mitch] McConnell and others are well aware of our views on this issue of imposing conditionality. United States aid to Russia serves United States interests," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"We think it is very unsafe to pick one or another issue in this relationship which has a very broad agenda and is very complicated and to impose some level of conditionality upon it. We will argue very strongly for that position in all of our conversations with members of congress," he said.

Mr. Burns has said U.S. officials spoke to Russian authorities about the reactor deal several times this week following a confusing series

of press reports from Moscow about its scope.

He acknowledged that despite repeated entreaties since last January by Washington for Moscow to halt the programme with Tehran — including a summit last May between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton — Russia was still determined to go forward with it.

The Clinton administration remains committed to continue trying to persuade Moscow to halt cooperation with Iran, insisting that Tehran is rogue regime bent on trying to develop nuclear weapons. Mr. Burns said.

"I can't report to you that we have made progress there that could end Russia's programme with Iran, but we haven't given up the effort," he said.

"It remains in our interests to try to convince them, over the long term, that Iran is, in fact, engaged in a drive to produce these weapons and we hope that we'll be able to convince the Russians of that," he said.

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that," he said.

Mr. Burns said the United States has had a hard time finding out how many nuclear facilities Russia promised Iran.

The current understanding is that Moscow will complete an unfinished nuclear plant at Bushehr, possibly provide three more light-water reactors, and also offer other technological assistance, he said.

On Aug. 29 Mr. Mikhaylov said the Bushehr agreement provides for a total of four power reactors but that no timetable has been set for the construction of the additional units. Mr. Burns told questioners, "No information has been given to us on the locations of those reactors."

"We assume that what the minister says represents official Russian government policy," Mr. Burns said.

"We're absolutely, unequivocally opposed to Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran," the spokesman declared.

But Mr. Burns said such a move might negatively affect Russia's move towards democracy and integration with the West.

He acknowledged that in addition to promoting democracy in Russia, the United States has aimed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons but said the administration sees no reason to do so.

choose between those two goals now.

Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhaylov has said Russia's January 1995 protocol with Iran calls for the completion of one nuclear power unit at Bushehr and construction of several light-water research reactors.

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## Crackdown poses threats for Mubarak

By Anthony Shadid

CAIRO — In its crackdown on a powerful but nonviolent Muslim group, the government has made clear its vision of the future: Islamic rule will not come to Egypt, even by peaceful means.

Whether that vision is viable is by no means certain. Nearly all Arab states in the past decade have used repression to try to crush Islamic opposition. At best, the result has been simmering discontent; at worst, full-blown civil war.

For Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak's all-or-nothing gambit will likely prove a turning point after 14 years in power. It sends a signal to other Middle Eastern nations — and the United States, Egypt's main patron — that one of the region's most powerful states will no longer tolerate serious opposition from even nonviolent Islamic groups.

"The government is trying to say we really mean business," said Mohammad Sid Ahmad, a leftist columnist

and political commentator. "There is a beginning of a crackdown vis-a-vis the Islamic trend in general and the moderates in particular."

On July 28, police rounded up 200 Muslim Brotherhood activists in two cities. It was the sharpest escalation in the government's campaign against the Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic organization, with perhaps one million supporters.

The group, which envisions the creation of an Islamic state through democratic means, is technically illegal but has been allowed to operate openly and even compete in elections.

Some viewed the Brotherhood as an alternative to Muslim extremists fighting to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and impose Islamic rule. More than 700 people, most of them militants and police, have died in three years of violent opposition.

If there is no lawful way to change, the people have to disobey the government, and we think that there is now a real discontent among people towards the government," said Magdi Hussein, editor of Al Shaaib, an Islamic-oriented newspaper.

The government often rounds up suspected militants, particularly in the wake of assassinations or attacks in southern Egypt. But the sweep 40 days ago came without warning, and was one of the biggest single-

day roundups since 1981, when the late President Anwar Sadat arrested more than 1,500 Islamists and mainstream opponents.

It also shows the government considers the Brotherhood strong enough to pose a threat to the state. It may hope to discredit the group before this fall's parliamentary elections.

But there's a potential for a backlash. Commentators warn that the crackdown will strengthen Islamists, both violent and nonviolent, by closing off any other avenue of opposition.

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## Windows 95 enters Jordanian market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Microsoft's latest offering to the computer world, Windows 95, was unveiled in Amman and the rest of the Middle East on Thursday, but many who expected an Arabic version of the programme were disappointed to be told that they would have to wait until the end of the year.

Ideal Tech, a subsidiary of Ideal Systems, introduced the long-awaited Windows 95 to an audience of more than 500 people thronging the ballroom of the Amman Marriott Hotel. Many of the audience seemed to have been attracted to the event by the massive advertising campaign that Microsoft launched throughout the world two weeks ago.

During the two-and-a-half hour event, officials and technical experts from Ideal Tech, dealers of Compaq computers — which reportedly leads to world's personal computer market over IBM and Apple — introduced Windows 95 with the help of a giant screen.

The programme — a dramatic update of the Windows 3.1 version — included many special features that help the user to cut time and get around to tasks with relative ease.

Users of Windows 3.1 on Compaq computers — recent purchases — are entitled to have Windows 95 a relatively low cost of around JD 40. The audience was told.

The cost of full programme in the U.S. is roughly \$85 and is expected to be sold in Jordan for around JD 100 or less.

Windows are estimated to be used by 80 per cent of all PC users — meaning more than 100 million users around the world.

The introduction of Windows 95 in Amman came simultaneously with a similar event in Dubai, where the launching of the programme in the Middle East was announced.

Some of the audience in Amman said they had come with an expectation that an Arabic version would be unveiled. However, at the outset of the introduction, Ideal

Tech officials said the Arabic Windows 95 would not be released before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, sales of Windows 95 fell in American stores in the second week of its availability, the Associated Press reported.

Microsoft dealers sold \$30 million worth of Windows 95 on the first day of its release, Aug. 24, the AP said, quoting a software market research centre in the U.S. The volume fell to \$7 million on the second day, rose again last week before falling to \$5.5 billion on Sunday.

Microsoft said it sold one million copies of Windows 95 in the first four days after it released the programme.

The volume of sales in stores through the first 11 days reached 1.63 million copies, said Ann Stephens, president of PC Data, the research firm.

"I am being a little conservative," she said. "But for August, a very large chunk of total software sales is going to be Windows 95."

Windows 95 is the first major update in five years to the main programme that runs a personal computer.

Several hundred thousand more copies of Windows 95 have been installed on personal computers sold since Aug. 24 and millions more are in PCs now in the hands of distributors.

In one indication of a slowdown in the Windows 95 frenzy, Microsoft said phone calls from people needing help installing or using the new software were down sharply.

While there have been no major glitches reported in Windows 95, Microsoft has come under fire for its incompatibility with several popular programmes for browsing the world-wide web portion of the Internet.

The company has also had to fight a perception that the version of Windows 95 that comes on diskettes contains a virus. While it does not contain a virus, it can be ruined by a rogue programme that already exists on a PC. After that discovery last week, Microsoft offered to replace the programme to people who harm it with a pre-existing virus.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regional workshop to be held in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public officials and specialists from the United States, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority will hold a workshop here on the control of the whitewash in the Jordan Valley and the reduction of risks associated with the use of pesticides and agrochemicals in the region, the U.S. embassy announced Friday. The five-day workshop will be held between Sept. 10-14. It is sponsored by the United States government in cooperation with the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT). In addition to the Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian specialists attending, the workshop will also be attended by representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### PNA passport wins world-wide recognition

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A total of 29 countries have recognised the Palestinian passport since it was first issued in April, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA announced Friday. Romania became the latest state to accept the green document this week along with Yemen. Nine other Arab countries along with Israel and major powers such as the United States, China, India, France, Germany, Britain, and South Africa have recognised the passport issued by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

### Club Med to reopen following rocket attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Club Med hit by a missile barrage last June will reopen next spring after Israel builds a bomb shelter in the Lebanon border resort, Israel's tourism ministry said. A 24-year-old French butcher working in the Club Med kitchen was killed when Katyusha rockets fired by guerrillas in Lebanon hit the resort in June. The resort has a mainly Israeli clientele. But Club Med plans to launch a special marketing effort in Europe to rebuild the resort's image, a tourism ministry statement said.

### Rafsanjani to visit Bangladesh in October

DHAKA (AP) — President Hashemi Ali Akbar Rafsanjani will visit Bangladesh in October, an official said. But Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, who made the announcement, said the dates were still to be decided. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaudin Brujerdi flew to Dhaka Wednesday to hold talks with officials and finalise the dates for Mr. Rafsanjani's visit.

### Cypriot judges reject British soldiers' appeal

LARNACA (AFP) — Judges here on Friday rejected an appeal by the Cyprus supreme court from lawyers for British soldiers accused of beating to death Danish tourist Louise Jensen. The Larnaca assizes court overruled the application over the admissibility of evidence that blood was found on the car allegedly used by Alan Ford, 26, Jeffrey Pernell, 23, and Justin Fowler, 27, to abduct the woman. The Royal Green Jackets riflemen have pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter, abduction and conspiracy to rape the 23-year-old tour guide on Sept. 12. Their lawyers contested the testimony of a police finger-prints expert who linked bloody prints on the car to two of the defendants. They claimed he was not a haematologist and could not refer to the stains on the car as blood. The prints did not match those of Mr. Fowler.

### Identity established of Beirut body

BEIRUT (AP) — Authorities confirmed Friday that a body washed ashore in Beirut last week was that of a German tourist killed in a plane crash in Turkey three months ago. State Coroner Ahmad Harati examined the decomposed body at a Beirut morgue Thursday in the presence of a German diplomat. He said Friday that dental records shipped from Germany proved the body was that of Claus Schenk, 38, as authorities had believed since it was washed up on Lebanon's rocky Mediterranean coastline.

A gold necklace found on the corpse carried the name Claus Schenk along with the date Oct. 6, 1956. The names of four girls — Melanie, Rose, Ramona and Tatya — were engraved on the other side. Schenk had been missing since the June 14 crash at Manavgat, a small town near the southern Turkish Mediterranean resort of Antalya, about 500 kilometres northwest of Beirut across the Mediterranean. The seaplane went down just after taking off from the Manavgat River. The pilot, Wolf Radermacher, 52, managed to get out. But his two passengers, Claus Schenk and Wilhelm Schenk, 59, went down with the aircraft. It was not immediately known if the two Germans were related.

A team of German investigators and a doctor had been scheduled to travel to Beirut to examine the body. But dental records were sent instead after it appeared that no crime had been committed. Schenk's body will be shipped back to Germany early next week.

### Sudan's civil servants face military training

KHARTOUM (R) — Civil servants who want to get ahead in Sudan will have to undergo military training, a senior Sudanese official was quoted as saying on Friday. Wahid Tajeddin Al Sir told Akhbar Al Youm newspaper that Khartoum's Islamist-backed military government aimed to provide the training to all civil servants by the end of next year to instil in them the spirit of jihad (holy struggle). Mr. Sir, general coordinator of the civil service in the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative Reform and Labour, warned that no one who avoided training would be promoted. He said the training would be conducted by Sudan's Popular Defence Forces (PDF), set up in 1989 to help the regular army in its fight with southern rebels. PDF training usually lasts two to three months.

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) reformation department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 532005, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 ..... Beirut (RJ) 01:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL) 01:50 ..... London (BA)

08:00 ..... Rome (AZ) 01:55 ..... Paris (CDG) 02:35 ..... Seoul (KS)

10:30 ..... Riyadh (add) (RJ) 02:45 ..... Tokyo (NRT) 03:00 ..... Beijing (PEK)

12:00 ..... Vienna (RJ) 03:15 ..... Jakarta (HI) 03:30 ..... Singapore (SIN)

12:40 ..... Paris (AZ) 03:45 ..... Seoul (KS) 04:00 ..... Seoul (KS)

13:45 ..... Geneva (RJ) 04:15 ..... Seoul (KS) 04:30 ..... Seoul (KS)

14:00 ..... Amsterdam (KL) 04:45 ..... Seoul (KS) 05:00 ..... Seoul (KS)

15:00 ..... Paris (AZ) 05:15 ..... Seoul (KS) 05:30 ..... Seoul (KS)

16:00 ..... London (BA) 06:00 ..... Seoul (KS) 06:15 ..... Seoul (KS)

17:00 ..... Paris (AZ) 06:30 ..... Seoul (KS) 06:45 ..... Seoul (KS)

18:00 ..... London (BA) 07:00 ..... Seoul (KS) 07:15 ..... Seoul (KS)

19:00 ..... Paris (AZ) 07:30 ..... Seoul (KS) 07:45 ..... Seoul (KS)

20:00 ..... London (BA) 08:00 ..... Seoul (KS) 08:15 ..... Seoul (KS)

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REVIEW  
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relayed the report  
in October  
Major Rami  
decided to  
families and  
soldiers' appeal

## Families march through Amman

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary President of the Jordanian Diabetes Society (JBS), Princess Basma Bint Ali Friday gave the start signal and took part herself in a march which kicked off from Husseini Youth City and ended at the JBS premises in Dahab Rashid in the western outskirts of Amman.

The march was aimed at raising awareness about diabetes and highlighting the role played by the society in providing insulin free of

charge to diabetes patients and to raise funds for the purchase of a mobile clinic.

Taking part in the march were JBS members and their families, in addition to school and university students.

The society was established in 1991 to promote awareness about diabetes through the publication and dissemination of facts and figures about diabetes, its causes and consequences, as well as prevention and treatment.

Average daily flying time increased from 10.8 hours in

## RJ sales go up in August

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) last month collected \$38.6 million in revenues, compared to \$35 million during the same month last year, according to Majdi Sabri, vice president of the airline's Marketing and Sales Department.

Dr. Sabri said total flying hours of RJ aircraft during Aug. 1995 were 4,912, compared with 4,690 in Aug. 1994. Average daily flying time increased from 10.8 hours in

Aug. 1994 to 11.1 hours in Aug. 1995, he said.

Dr. Sabri said the aircraft seat occupancy rate on most of the routes also increased from 72.9 to 75.9.

RJ has operated 98 additional flights and 38 charter flights to meet the increase in the number of tourists who visited Jordan this summer, Dr. Sabri said, adding that the income collected from the charter flights totalled \$2.2 million.

## ARABSAT meeting opens today with plan to launch new satellites

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The 75th meeting of the board of directors of the Arab Satellite Organisation, known as ARABSAT, opens in Amman today with the participation of delegates from nine Arab countries including Jordan.

During the six-day meeting the delegates will review the organisation's financial situation, as well as a report by the board chairman on the organisation's perfor-

mance last year and a proposal by Egypt to launch a special satellite for the Egyptian Radio and Television corporation.

The delegates are also expected to review the implementation of the second generation of the ARABSAT project.

The organisation, founded by the Arab League's ministers of posts and communications in 1976, aims at creating a pan-Arab satellite

network to serve Arab countries' telephone and television systems.

Jordan contributes nearly

four per cent to the organisation's \$163.5 million capital.

The first generation saw

the launching of the first and second satellites in February and June of 1985 respectively while the second genera-

tion was launched in 1992.

Altogether 18 Arab countries are linked to the

ARABSAT but Libya,

Palestine and Somalia are still to set up their ground

satellite stations.

The organisation is looking forward to launching a series of new satellites by mid-1996.

Countries attending Saturday's meeting are: Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, Libya and Morocco.

## Jordan's illiteracy rate lowers to 13%

**AMMAN** (J.T.) — The rate of illiteracy among Jordanians above 15 years of age dropped to 13 per cent down from nearly 17 per cent last year, according to Dr. Khaled Nabiti, head of the Ministry of Education's general education department.

Efforts are being made to reduce the rate to eight per cent by the year 2000, he added.

In a statement marking International Literacy Day (ILD) Friday, Dr. Nabiti said that the progressive reduction of illiteracy rates in Jordan has been made possible through the literacy and adult education centres which were set up in 1967.

At present Jordan has 600 centres which offer free basic education to nearly 10,000 adult men and women who missed out on school education in their childhood, according to Dr. Nabiti.

In its drive to wipe out illiteracy, the Ministry of Education followed a dual strategy intended to prevent the increase in the number of illiterates while at the same time to provide basic educa-



Young student concentrates on school examination (file photo)

tion to those who are illiterate, he noted.

In 1952 the Ministry of Education made basic education in the first six years compulsory for all children up to the age of 16.

The Ministry of Education has also established adult education and literacy centres in a bid to eradicate illiteracy in the country, said Dr. Nabiti.

In accordance with the resolutions and recommendations passed by the 1987

international education conference the ministry raised the basic education period to 10 years covering all children up to the age of 16.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day UNESCO Director General Friday issued a statement noting that in developing countries illiterate adults still account for an average 30 per cent of the population.



### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### SEMINAR

Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Arab Personality and Its Challenges," by Dr. Abdul Majid Kheir at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

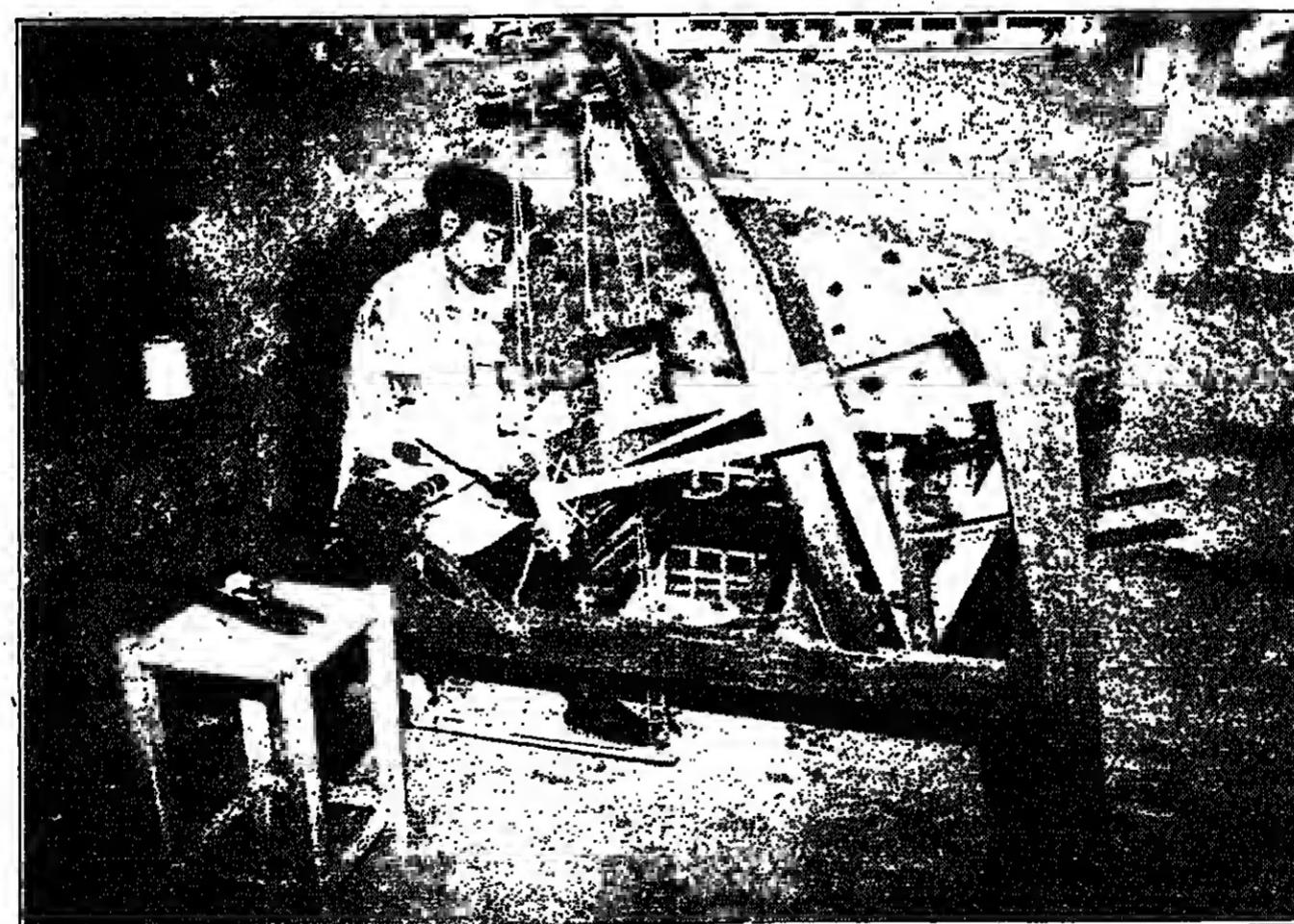
\*Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, Jordan InterContinental

#### DARAT AL FUNUN

##### FILM: "Picasso" at 5:00 p.m.

\*Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery. \*Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodieb at the Blue House. \*Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House. \*Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermat.

## Noor Al Hussein Foundation enters new decade 'Setting national standards of excellence through innovative, integrated community development'



A young woman practises her new weaving talents at a workshop established by the Noor Al Hussein Wadi Seer Community Development Project (photo by Robena)

**AMMAN** (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

Established by Royal Decree in 1985, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation has launched many projects and programmes to address different development needs in Jordan through innovative, dynamic and integrated community development models to serve in setting national standards of excellence regarding family and community development, women, children, culture and heritage and education.

In the field of family and community development, the Quality of Life Project aims at improving the living standard of families and individuals living in underprivileged communities across Jordan by training and supporting people to become self-reliant through grassroots community participation in the planning, management and evaluation of social and income-generating development schemes which include home gardens, fruit orchards, goat, cow and poultry raising, fish ponds, broom and basket making, wool knitting and sewing, textile and carpet weaving and bee-keeping.

By 1995, 2,000 families in 12 villages were benefiting directly from this project, which also indirectly serves about 25,000 people living in those villages and their neighbourhoods.

As for women and their role in the development process, the Women-in-Development Project was initiated to accelerate the integration, participation and representation of low-income women in national socio-economic development through the introduction of innovative income-generating schemes based on the concepts of self-employment and home production.

By 1995, more than 868 women and their families were benefiting directly and indirectly from the project and have become active participants in their own develop-

ment, informed decision makers in their homes and communities and trained income-earners in their society.

Within the framework of the Women-in-Development Project, a community development centre at Aqaba and five other pilot projects were initiated.

These include: bee-keeping and honey production at Karak Governorate, the Medicinal Herbs Project in Irbid Governorate which, in less than two years, has produced 10 per cent of what Jordan used to import in sage and thyme and has expanded to benefit farmers and cooperatives throughout Jordan, the Leather Sitching and Light Shoe Production Workshop in Zarqa which benefits 44 women and their families through sales to the local market, the Garment Production Unit in Mafrag Governorate, and the Rabbit Farm in Balqa Governorate.

As for children's welfare, the Institute for Child Health and Development in the city of Sweileh includes a maternal and child health clinic, a child development unit, a research and documentation unit and a mobile unit of health specialists.

The institute aims at developing new and adequate methods in preventive health care for pregnant mothers and pre-school children as well as raising the primary maternal and child health-care standards in Jordan by improving growth monitoring, diagnosis and management practices.

By 1995, 3,745 children and 1,175 mothers had benefited from the institute's maternal and child health clinic services, 1,243 children had utilised its child development unit.

The NHF also sponsors several cultural programmes for children such as the Children's Heritage and Science Museum which receives about 200 children daily, the Mobile Life and Science Museum which reached about 40,000 children throughout the Kingdom, the SOS Children's

Villages in Tareq (a suburb of Amman) and in Aqaba, benefiting 166 children and 17 male and female teenagers, children's clubs and playgrounds in Karak, Zarqa, Aqaba, the Ashrafieh region and in the 12 villages where the Quality of Life Project is being implemented, the Arab Children's Congress in which more than 1,000 children have participated so far, the Day of the Arab Child and International Day of the Child, the Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature and finally the National Children's Hospital which is to be established in the near future.

In the field of culture and heritage, the National Handicrafts Development Project was established to revive traditional crafts and

preserve a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage, encourages crafts men and women to produce innovative, high quality handicrafts such as ceramics, embroidery, woven rugs and wool products at competitive prices for domestic and international markets.

This project includes the Jordan Design and Trade Centre (Liwan) which aims at raising the standards of Jordanian handicrafts production, providing marketing opportunities, creating new jobs and increasing women's involvement in production and decision-making by offering assistance in product development, technical and management training and marketing.

The work of the centre has been well recognised and has won several awards at international exhibitions.

The centre has appointed sales representatives in several countries.

In its endeavours to raise the standards of its handi-

craft-related organisations and benefited about 3,000 Jordanian crafts people and their families.

Its products include not only items for decoration but for home use also such as woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items, all designed and produced by Jordanians and individual artists supported by the centre.

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crafts products in Jordan, it has initiated a Silver Jewellery Project in Wadi Musa to produce traditional silver items. For this purpose, a workshop and a retail outlet will be set up.

Another offshoot of the National Handicrafts Development Project is the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre which is dedicated to preparing a new generation of distinguished crafts men and women by offering a free three-year training programme for students, ad hoc courses for the public and crafts people and an in-service programme for trainers.

In 1995, the number of trainees reached approximately 200.

Also in the field of culture and heritage, the National Music Conservatory, which has a student body of 350 students and 55 full-time

and part-time teachers as well as the first and only children's orchestra in Jordan, was established to develop the talents of musicians and promote music appreciation in Jordan.

Finally, the NHF is involved in the famous Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts which annually attracts thousands of people from all over the world to the ancient sites in Jerash to enjoy a variety of entertainment productions from the Arab World and many other countries.

In the field of education, The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, the Theatre-in-Education Programme, which is intended to enhance the development of the educational process in Jordan through the creative medium of drama and to promote theatre arts combines classroom and stage techniques with the natural acting instinct of the young to promote self-awareness, confidence, learning and creative expression.

It also offers drama-in-education training courses for elementary school teachers and community college students, organised drama workshops for elementary and preparatory school students, produces specially devised short plays as well as musicals and plays for children.

Here also, the Centre for Early Childhood and the Jubilee School, which is dedicated to the development of the intellect and leadership potentials of gifted and outstanding Jordanian students with special emphasis on those from underprivileged areas, are devoted to educational excellence.

The Jubilee School is an independent four-year, co-educational secondary school which helps set national standards of excellence in education by providing its students with highly trained staff, modern laboratories, workshops and classrooms, career counselling and community-service opportunities.

At the start of the 1994/95

academic year, student enrolment in the school reached 197.

Looking towards the future, three new projects are being implemented:

1- The Wadi Seer Community Development Project which is intended to accelerate comprehensive socio-economic development in five villages in the Wadi Seer area of Amman by implementing a market-oriented business approach that encourages individual initiatives.

It seeks to revive traditional Jordanian crafts to meet market demand in the country's growing tourism sector.

This project will also provide health services and sanitation facilities and will help generate long-term employment particularly for poor women.

It includes several schemes such as renovation of irrigation canals, cow raising, environment awareness, nursery, medical herbs, building renovation, weaving workshop and paper making, primary health and nutrition training and food processing and preservation.

2- The Tricot Knitwear Project which aims at training underprivileged women to become self-reliant income-earners in their communities.

It has a production unit which manufactures samples and exclusive items, develops designs and selects the raw materials according to prevailing fashions and market needs, and attends to product marketing.

It offers local women free courses in design, knitting, sewing and financial management.

3- Population Programmes for the Grassroots which helps redress Jordan's present annual population growth rate by fostering awareness about population issues at the grassroots level and advocating family planning through small group sessions, campaigns at the village level and producing guides, posters and video films.

## Lobov: Hunt is on for Dudayev

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Eight months after Dzhokhar Dudayev fled his bombed presidential palace, Russian troops have launched an active search for the elusive Chechen leader, a top Russian official said.

The statement by Oleg Lobov to Russian journalists reflects Kremlin concerns about getting a firmer grip on the Chechen conflict in the run-up to Russian parliamentary and presidential elections.

Mr. Lobov, who was granted broad powers last month as Mr. Yeltsin's personal representative in Chechnya, also said in comments reported by the Interfax News Agency that a criminal case against Mr. Dudayev has been opened.

There has been little evidence of any all-out hunt for Mr. Dudayev in the past in the tiny Caucasus Mountains region, despite Russian statements that they wanted

to capture him. Driven out of his headquarters in the Chechen capital Grozny last January, Mr. Dudayev has set up his military command in outlying areas and occasionally speaks out harshly in interviews or clandestine broadcasts.

On the eve of the fourth anniversary of Chechenya's self-proclaimed independence, which fell Wednesday, Mr. Dudayev threatened to bring his "fire and sword" onto Russian soil.

He told Associated Press Television that Chechenya is occupied territory and accused the Russians of failing to live up to their promise to withdraw troops, as called for in a July 30 military pact.

Mr. Lobov acknowledged in Grozny that the situation in Chechenya remains "complicated," blaming it on the failure of Chechen rebel fighters to voluntarily disarm as called for under

the accord. But Interfax quoted him as saying: "The situation is not hopeless."

The hawkish Lobov, who also is secretary of Mr. Yeltsin's Security Council, flatly ruled out the possibility of Mr. Dudayev's participation in local elections in Chechenya.

"Persons against whom criminal proceedings have been started have no right to contest elections," Mr. Lobov told journalists in Grozny, according to Interfax.

"If his position and views change or he is rehabilitated just as others are, as a rehabilitation is envisaged in principle, then the issue can be looked at differently," Mr. Lobov said. "A lot depends on Dudayev himself, and not only on him but on his entourage too."

The Russian Armed Forces reported Thursday that Chechen separatists destroyed 307 Russian tanks in Chechenya fighting.

Colonel-General Alexander Galkin, head of tank forces at the Ministry of Defence, told ITAR-TASS news agency that a total of 1,200 armoured vehicles took part in the campaign "to disarm illegal armed groups." It was not clear how many of those were tanks.

Gen. Galkin said losses could have been significantly reduced if troops had provided cover for the tanks, many of which were picked off by shoulder-held anti-tank weapons in fighting for control of Grozny.

Gen. Galkin said a new generation of Russian tanks to be introduced by 1998 would be equipped with extra defence and safety mechanisms with ammunition and fuel stored separately from the crew.

He said three-quarters of Russia's tanks needed to be replaced, but plans were hampered by lack of funds.

## Mrs. Clinton pushes for democracy in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton rode out into the vast Mongolian countryside, visiting with nomads in their canvas tent to show support for this fledgling democracy wedged between Russia and China.

Wrapped in a shawl and wearing black suede cowboy boots, the first lady stepped back in time as she walked across rolling green hills to meet with nomads whose ancestors have roamed the land for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years.

Usually, the only signs of life are three small, circular

tents and dozens of horses, yaks and goats. On Thursday, the tranquil scene was dramatically transformed by an invasion of 20 cars and trucks and a horde of cameramen and reporters.

Mrs. Clinton was greeted by a young couple who offered a bowl brimming with fermented mare's milk, a traditional nomadic drink. After a sip, Mrs. Clinton managed a smile.

Most Westerners hate the taste, sometimes described as a cross between buttermilk and beer. "It tastes like what we call yogurt," Mrs. Clinton said diplomatically. She also sampled boiled

milk curds.

"I was so impressed by the beauty of the land," Mrs. Clinton told the family, surrounded in their tent — known as a ger — by her laws and eight pink-cheeked children.

Members of Mrs. Clinton's entourage got two pages of courtesy tips about how to act in a ger. If you have to go to the bathroom, for example, you tell the host you're going to take a look at the horses.

The first lady arrived here from an International Women's Conference in China for an overnight stay in Ulan Bator.

## Dublin challenges Sinn Fein over arms

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government put pressure on Sinn Fein Friday to stop blocking moves to defuse a crisis in the Northern Ireland peace process over the disarming of its IRA guerrilla supporters.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, in a subtle policy shift, said in a Thursday night speech that the British and Irish governments should try to move the process forward even if some Northern Ireland parties disagreed.

"This does not mean we can necessarily move with commitments in advance," Mr. Bruton said at an official dinner.

"There is now an obligation on the two governments to move forward, using the knowledge they have, and make decisions as governments while seeking to bring the maximum number of people with us," he said.

His remarks were aimed at Sinn Fein, whose objections to an international panel to oversee the disarming of the IRA helped cause the postponement of a crucial Anglo-Irish summit which was to have been held Wednesday, Irish officials said.

They said Sinn Fein effec-

tively vetoed the setting up of the panel last weekend and helped to cause the embarrassing postponement of the summit.

Mr. Bruton said the British and Irish governments "should act as governments" and press ahead with their plan, despite advance objections by Sinn Fein or Unionist parties which want the province to stay British.

His remarks were aimed at putting the peace process back on track after it hit its worst crisis since the Irish Republican Army (IRA) called a ceasefire one year ago to win Sinn Fein a seat at peace talks.

He urged Britain to stop doubting the permanence of the IRA ceasefire and to move towards calling new all-party talks to find a lasting Northern Ireland settlement.

The people of this state had and have placed their trust in Sinn Fein that the IRA will never again use or threaten to use arms to achieve a political objective," he said.

Britain says it will not invite Sinn Fein or its Protestant loyalist rivals to the talks until both groups get their guerrilla backers to start handing over arms used

in a 25-year war for and against an end to British rule of the province.

The two governments agreed an outline plan in the past month to establish an international panel to work out the details of how the two guerrilla groups would disarm.

But Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams told the Dublin government that his party would not work with such a panel because it feared that Britain would continue to link all-party talks to the disarming of the IRA.

His objections helped sink the summit, which was to have set a target date for all-party talks by the year's end with no reference to disarming as a pre-condition, Irish officials said.

British and Irish officials are continuing to work behind the scenes to narrow the gap between the two governments in the hope that summit talks can be held soon, the officials said.

Mr. Bruton and his British counterpart, John Major, are due to meet at an EU summit in Spain in two weeks and could review progress there and agree a new summit date.

Transcript of a closed-door hearing in the judge's chambers Wednesday, made public Thursday, showed a tense exchange between Judge Ito and lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran. At one point Mr. Cochran told Judge Ito, "your honour, I resent that tone. I'm a man just like you are, your honour."

Soon after Judge Ito said, "Mr. Cochran, let me just express to you some concern that I have regarding our personal relationship at this point in time ... I have chosen up to this point to ignore your press conference last Thursday and what I consider to be a direct contempt of this court."

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## Yeltsin: Fragmented democrats face tough extremist challenge

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin predicted a tough parliamentary election campaign Friday, saying the democrats were too fragmented and would have to join forces to defeat the challenge from extremists.

"The attempts to unite the democratic wing have not yet succeeded," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference in the Kremlin, adding that parties were not grouping around the reformist ex-Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, who leads the Russia's Democratic Choice faction.

"There will be a tense (election) battle," he predicted.

"I'm concerned about the fragmentation of parties. Now we have 250 small parties and I'm worried about that, even though only 50 of them can really take part in the campaign."

"We cannot allow extremists to get into power, and we will take every step to prevent that."

In the last parliamentary elections in December 1993 the Liberal Democratic Party of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Communists and Agrarians gained 40 per cent of the seats in the Duma.

"It will be hard for one group to get ahead. Probably an analysis of this situation will push some parties to unite, to secure a majority bloc in the future Duma."

The Kremlin hoped to clip the extremists' wings in the

summer by launching two pro-Yeltsin coalitions, the centre-right Our Home Is Russia and a centre-left bloc led by Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

"But Mr. Rybkin failed to gather influential groups in the new bloc and his repeated attempts to win the conservative Agrarian Party, of which he was formerly a leading member, were also unsuccessful.

The Communists and Agrarians joined forces Wednesday to challenge Mr. Gaidar, who leads the Russia's Democratic Choice faction.

"As a voter my personal sympathies are with those movements and blocs in favour of democratisation, speeding up reform and social protection for people. Legal action will be taken against parties allowing anti-constitutional slogans," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"He said many party leaders "want to see only their names heading the list of candidates."

Mr. Yeltsin said that according to the latest opinion polls, each party would get between five and eight per cent in the Dec. 17 elections to the 450-seat State Duma, or lower house of parliament.

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## Belarus parliament softens election rules

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Belarusian lawmakers have lowered the required parliament election turnout, hoping the measure would finally allow the former Soviet republic to elect its new legislature.

Last May, indifferent voters failed to form Belarus' first post-Soviet parliament, electing only 120 deputies in two rounds of balloting.

To begin functioning, the new 250-seat legislature must have at least two-thirds of its members, or 174 deputies.

The old Belarusian parliament, which was elected in 1990 — before the Soviet collapse — was to fill up the vacuum until the new one is

elected.

However, it held its

first post-election session

only this week.

On Thursday, lawmakers lowered the required turnout threshold from 50 to 25 per cent of the eligible voters.

The next round of elections is scheduled for Nov. 29.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has harshly criticised the old parliament for the failure to comply with his policies, and set severe restrictions on campaigning for the new one in an effort to dislodge its opponents.

Communist candidates,

loyal to Mr. Lukashenko,

swept the May vote, and not

a single candidate of the

opposition Popular Front

made it to parliament.

In a referendum accompanying the election, which Mr. Lukashenko initiated, an overwhelming majority endorsed his policy of integration with Russia and restored the slightly changed Soviet-era Belarusian coat of arms, crowned with a red star, and the republic's red flag.

Mr. Lukashenko also has instructed the present parliament to gather only in unspecified extraordinary situations, his chief of staff Leonid Smitsyn said Thursday.

Parliament leaders said they will ignore the order.

## Embarrassing defeat touches off bitter feud among ruling S. African parties

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — A bitter feud erupted between South Africa's two major parties Friday after their embarrassing defeat in parliament, when they failed to pass a crucial constitutional amendment.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) of President Nelson Mandela and its partner in government, the formerly ruling National Party (NP), blamed each other for Thursday's parliamentary debacle.

The two parties failed to get enough of their members into parliament to meet the two-thirds requirement to pass the vital constitutional amendment, despite together having allowed for the failure of the vote.

The failure of the vote threw a potential shadow over the planned Nov. 1 local government elections, as one of the amendments would have allowed for the staggering of the vote, a move that has become necessary as two provinces, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, are unprepared.

Labour Minister Lucienne Robillard, in charge of the federal government's referendum strategy, said the Parti Quebecois lacked the courage to mention the word "country" in the referendum question.

"I find it long and ambiguous," Mr. Robillard said. "I wonder how people are going to understand it."

Quebec's legislature is scheduled to start debating a bill Monday outlining the conditions under which the province would become independent. It will likely include keeping the Canadian dollar and allowing Quebecers to hold dual Canadian citizenship.

The referendum campaign began in earnest Wednesday with the gala presentation of a proposed declaration of independence intended to kindle Quebecers' nationalist fervour.

At that news conference, Mr. Cochran blasted Judge Ito's decision to allow the jury to be given only two examples of Mr. Fuhrman's use of the "N" word, saying "the cover-up continues."

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By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Jordan Times

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## Clearing the bench

EVEN THOUGH the crisis resulting from the mass resignation of senior judges seems to have a solution in sight, efforts to root out once and for all the reasons that prompted the move should not cease. Apparently these reasons go beyond the reported desire to obtain duty-free cars or state-provided means of transportation. In fact, judges deny that the current crisis was fuelled by the refusal of the government to grant them this privilege. Their demands, they say, target many aspects of their working conditions, ranging from health insurance to salaries among others.

The judiciary is a major pillar of the state. Its role is crucial to the proper functioning of the country. These facts necessitate that, first, the government provide judges with suitable conditions that allow for a smooth and focused administration of justice and, second, senior judges themselves should be more patient and prudent in their quest to achieve a better working environment.

The fact that more than two-thirds of the senior judges have decided to exercise their right to end their services is an indication of deep grievances that warrant immediate remedy. It is thus imperative for the government to examine carefully the demands of the judges and offer a solution that meets their just concerns and serves the interests of the state at the same time.

But the judges themselves should pause for a while and consider the repercussions of their move on the country. The threat of the complete paralyses of the higher — and also the lower — courts of the land is something that they should not force upon Jordanians. Before deciding to resign en masse, the honourable gentlemen should have resorted to other means to press their demands. They should not have opted for resigning before exhausting all other options available to them such as, for example, making their demands public or threatening a strike.

Only in the event that the government refused to meet their fair requirements might have the judges contemplated resignation.

Indications are at this point that the current crisis will be resolved. But the negative effects the resignations have had on the people will not disappear with the reversal of the decision to resign. Jordanians need to be assured that no such threat to their judicial system will appear in the future. That the government can do by using the current crisis as a prelude to launching a thorough review of their working conditions to ensure that all their legitimate concerns are addressed. As for the jurists themselves, they need to speak publicly about any grievances that they still have and to commit themselves not to repeat their action if their requirements are met.

The judges should pledge to never again threaten the administration of justice in the country and the government should introduce structural reforms that will ensure that the work of courts will not be halted as a result of disputes between the judiciary and the executive.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL'S DRIVE in cause demographically change the Arab city of Jerusalem and to end Christian and Muslim links with the Holy City will not succeed. Hamadeh Faranah, a writer in Al Dustour daily, has wrote. Any moves that consecrate Israel's occupation of Arab lands and Christian and Muslim holy places and any disregard to the rights and feelings of the Arab people will not help the cause of peace, said the writer. The fact that the ambassadors of European states and the United States declined to attend the Israeli celebrations marking King David's occupation of the city 3,000 years ago reflects the world's rejection of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem which has been occupied since 1967 and the desecration of its holy places and Zionists' disregard of Arab rights in the city. The only acceptable solution to the problem of Jerusalem lies in considering the city as the capital of Israel and Palestine if stability and co-existence is to endure. A peaceful settlement to the Middle East question should be based on the respect of the interests and legitimate rights of both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i said that despite the flurry of preparations underway in Jordan for the Middle East and North Africa economic conference due in Amman in late October, Jordan will not secure any gains from the coming events. Fahed Al Fanek said that it is the Americans who have the final say in any matter and they have taken their decision in advance of the meeting. During the three-day meeting Jordan will face unusual circumstances, its hotels will only be allowed to receive participants in the conference and no tourists while telephone services will be wholly consecrated to serving the delegations. According to the writer the Amman conference will endorse the establishment of the Middle East Development Bank which will be based in Cairo, the regional council for trade and investments which will be based in the West Bank to coordinate Arab-Israeli trade cooperation, and the regional council on tourism and travel which the Americans have already decided to establish it in Tunisia. The writer said that the delegates from 60 nations will be here not to meet Jordanian officials but rather to meet one another for business in a country which is offering them all the facilities to achieve that purpose.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Action and inaction in battle for Jerusalem

BY "CELEBRATING" what it describes as the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem, Israel is trying to rewrite history to suit its ambitions in the Holy City. If anyone wants to celebrate Jerusalem's history, then the starting point should be 2,000 years before King David's "conquest" of the place.

Israelis can believe what they want, but the reality is that the Canaanites and Yehusites were the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the city was named after the Yehusite king, Ursalem, 2,000 years before King David was born. So much for King David's "conquest" of Jerusalem that the Jews argue has given the city to the Jews. By very conveniently side-stepping the Canaanite and Yebusite history of Jerusalem, Israel is engaged in an exercise which it hopes will pull the wool over the world's eyes.

The reasons behind the conspicuous absence of 53 from among the 70 countries invited to attend the launch of the Israeli bash in Jerusalem last week may vary. But one thing is quite clear: The international community is simply not ready to accept Israel's claim that "united Jerusalem" will remain the capital of the Jewish state and that no one except Jews have any right to the city.

The absence of the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, from Monday's festivities that launched the 17-month Israeli party in Jerusalem should be very telling to Israel. It meant that the U.S., long regarded as the guardian angel of Israel, has sent a clear message to the Jewish state to take it easy before trying to predetermine the outcome of negotiations over Jerusalem with the Palestinians. Beyond that, however, is also the fact that Washington realises Muslim sentiments over Jerusalem and recognises that any American compliance with the Israeli designs in the city

would seriously put to question the U.S. role as a co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process and an honest mediator when it comes to snags in the peace negotiations. That, however, would not change the reality that the U.S. cannot be expected to throw its weight behind the legitimate claims of the Palestinians and Muslims to the Holy City.

As such we, Arabs and Muslims, are on our own when it comes to the final battle over Jerusalem.

The Europeans could be expected to give us help, but the extent of their help will largely depend on the extent of direct and indirect pressure that Israel would seek to apply on the European countries. The invitations that Israel sent out to the Europeans, along with others, were the first instalment of that pressure. And it seems that the Europeans not only withheld the onslaught but also hit back with a clear affirmation that they would not be party to any Israeli effort to undermine the Arab and Muslim positions vis-a-vis Jerusalem or predetermine the outcome of the final status Israeli-Palestinian negotiations coming up in 1996.

In the next few weeks and months we could see more of such pressure applied on the world community and we have to alert throughout to remind the world of the realities of the situation and the cunning tactics that go behind every move the Israelis make.

The recent fury over the presence of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and the Israeli drive to eliminate them is another part of the Jewish state's campaign to consolidate and legitimise its occupation of the Arab eastern sector of the city. The arguments that Israel has put up, citing the undertaking that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will confine its activities to the self-rule areas, do

not hold much water simply because the PNA represents the entire Palestinian nation and it is only natural that any Palestinian institution, whether in Jerusalem or anywhere else, would have links with their representative. This would remain an unshakeable truth and reality regardless of the technicalities that Israel or anyone else would or could raise.

Given that background, it is Israel which is not living up to its commitments, particularly the written pledge that its foreign minister, Shimon Peres, had signed promising that the Jewish would not only refrain from trying to change the realities on the ground in Jerusalem until a final solution is worked out with the Palestinians but would also encourage the work of Palestinian institutions in the city.

We Arabs and Muslims have been talking a lot about Jerusalem and emphasising the need to do something to check the Israeli designs on the Arab Eastern sector of the city. But very little has been done.

It would be a timely reminder here that His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly called for an all-out Arab-Muslim initiative, well thought-out and well-orchestrated, in the international scene to ensure that Israel would respect the Arab and Muslim rights to Jerusalem. It would seem that the call has not been picked up in the right context. As such, it is time that all those who have any sentiment towards Jerusalem to give the King's call serious thought and come together and produce an all-embracing initiative and campaign not only to reaffirm the Arab and Muslim rights to Jerusalem but also to ensure that Israel is denied room to manoeuvre.

## Ex-guerrillas lose jobs as S. Africa cuts military

By David Tucker  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Thousands of guerrillas who fought white rule in South Africa are to lose their jobs in the country's integrated post-apartheid forces as part of deep cuts in defence spending.

The government is offering severance packages of up to 10,000 former guerrillas from the ruling African National Congress (ANC) disbanded military wing and the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the black radical Pan-Africanist Congress.

The armed forces stand at 135,000 including civilian support staff, but based on two-year-old estimates the level needs to be cut to around 90,000 and possibly

below that.

Defence force sources say about 70 per cent of the South African military is now black, compared to just over 50 per cent at the time of the April 1994 democracy elections.

Black ranks have been swollen by about 11,000 soldiers from the now defunct apartheid-created black homelands and the 16,450 former guerrillas integrated so far.

Most of the lower-ranking soldiers being offered redundancy packages are black, while senior officers taking early retirement are mostly whites drawn from a hallowed officer corps.

"A process of natural attrition is also going on with many of the good (white) guys leaving because they feel they can't

get to the top any more," said defence analyst Jackie Cilliers.

Integration of former guerrillas and soldiers from the homelands into the old apartheid military was an essential element in reducing the risk that would have been posed by simply cutting the jobs immediately after the elections.

"The first priority was to get all the soldiers under control so they didn't run wild. Now the government has to think of a long-term strategy," said former brigadier Bill Sass, a senior analyst at the independent Institute for Defence Polity.

About 6,000 civil service support jobs will also go and thousands of uniformed men and women who served South Africa's past white rules will be cut.

The government, which has given a committee until April to come up with an overall plan for the new

guerrilla veterans who fled South Africa in the 1960s and spent most of their lives in exile.

"They are those who sacrificed everything for the liberation struggle," said an ANC official.

In addition to the cash packages, most if not all will be offered pensions and 18-month contracts to join a service corps to help reintegration into a civilian life, in which about 40 per cent of South Africans are jobless.

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The government, which has given a committee until April to come up with an overall plan for the new

military, wants the cuts to be completed by 1999 when the next general elections are due.

"This is the first time the ANC government is going to put together a defence force the way they want it to look," said Mr. Sass.

"The government must decide whether it wants a traditional African infantry arm, or a high-tech streamlined force.

"Most modern defence forces... have moved away from massed, barefoot peasant armies armed only with AK-47s. Modern defence forces need good, well-maintained equipment. To afford it you have to reduce something, probably manpower," said Mr. Sass.

"South Africa is under increasing pressure from Western countries, includ-

## LETTERS

### Shopping without success

To the Editor:

I READ with great delight the piece written by Mr. Ramzi G. Khouri entitled "Shopping for cotton socks and the Arab future."

It is quite refreshing to be reassured that somewhere in this enormously challenging void there is a pulse still alive.

I want to congratulate Mr. Khouri for having found the cotton socks. I also hope the ones he bought were white. For as far back as I can remember, I've been looking for cotton socks — any colour — without success:

Osman Ghadour,  
Amman.

### Distorted images

To The Editor:

ON TUESDAY Aug. 29, while I was watching TV with my family after dinner as we usually do, suddenly, I heard an Arabic name mentioned. It was the series "True Blue" in an episode about child kidnapping by terrorists named Hakkim and Suzzan from Third World countries. Later I saw our men head cover "Shmagh" in the bus, which has been hijacked that showed that we are "animals" as one of the children's mother said.

At first I thought it was Israeli TV, which always depicts us as inhumane. But, I noticed that it was Jordan TV, Channel 2.

I would like to hear an explanation about airing this programme from the television programmes department.

Awatif Abu Al Ru'h,  
Amman.

### Caution, but no lists

To the Editor:

CONCERNING THE item entitled "What List?" in last Thursday's Society on the Move column, urgent clarification is in order.

Contrary to what Ms. Hamarneh reported, I most certainly did not tell Ms. Najar that Jordan had been placed on a State Department Travel Advisory List. I told her that several CNN personnel staying at a hotel in Amman had received a note apprising Americans of the situation and advising caution. I definitely did not say anything about an official Travel Advisory List.

I am surprised that Ms. Hamarneh never took the effort to contact me directly, or the obvious diplomatic sources.

Ben Wedeman,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

# King calls for new approach to end Iraqis' suffering

(Continued from page 1)

I hope that the Iraqi people will enjoy political pluralism, democracy and respect of human rights, and I hope that a reconciliation among its various groups and factions will materialise.

The picture is very painful and we continue to hear about the suffering of our brothers and kinsmen there resulting from the blockade, foreign pressure and the economic situation. Jordan will remain an open gate to provide the Iraqis with food and medicine within the framework of U.N. resolutions.

Recently I have come to see a very sad picture about the suffering of the Iraqi people and their deprivation of human rights. Information about this situation came from reliable sources, causing a shock to me. We must do the impossible and use all means to rescue the Iraqi people.

Q: Did you have contacts with Hussein Kamel before he came to settle in Jordan?

A: There were no contacts. The last time Hussein Kamel came here was when he was on his way back home from Moscow, a few weeks before his defection. He carried a message from the Iraqi leadership at the time, seeking Moscow's help in ending the suffering of the Iraqi people and the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

I believe that Iraq must implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions. These resolutions do not only entail the removal of all weapons of mass destruction. There is a world power with great influence demanding that the Iraqis settle the Kuwaiti prisoners question and give the people in the north and south their rights.

Therefore, there is no alternative to reconsidering all Iraqi policies as I said in a message to the Iraqi leadership through Hussein Kamel. If they are willing to do that, then they are welcome to discuss with us what could be done.

Q: Were you surprised by the defection?

A: Yes I was. I first thought he was bringing me a message. He was a young and brilliant man who had assumed responsibility for the Iraqi armed forces under the most critical circumstances, carried out his duty as best as he could, conducted scientific research to develop his country and was responsible for the creation of the Republican Guards. This man could have stayed in an Iraqi government — in exile in Jordan?

A: Any talk about this subject is premature. I believe there should be understanding among Arab countries over the Iraqi question and there should be a consensus on saving the Iraqi people.

Q: Did you have contacts with Hussein Kamel before he came to settle in Jordan?

A: There were no contacts. The last time Hussein Kamel came here was when he was on his way back home from Moscow, a few weeks before his defection. He carried a message from the Iraqi leadership at the time, seeking Moscow's help in ending the suffering of the Iraqi people and the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Q: Did Uday Saddam Hussein come to make peace with

Hussein Kamel or to take him back to Baghdad?

A: He came to take him back saying that perhaps the man had come here for health reasons or due to family disputes. We told Uday that he came to stay at his uncle's residence here. As to Uday's quest to meet with his family, that was a matter totally left to the concerned parties. I found that Uday's sisters' request to a meeting was negative as they did not wish to meet him.

As to why he was allowed to address the press from my home, that was in order to give him the chance to reply to the accusations levelled at him... This man could have lived at ease in his country but has opted for the difficult road outside his country.

Q: Some people say Saddam's daughters were forced by their husbands to come to Amman is that so?

A: Not at all. I am convinced by my own family members that they came with their own free will and they had known of their husbands' decision. They are welcome to live here.

Q: Are you ready to host an Iraqi government — in exile in Jordan?

A: Any talk about this subject is premature. I believe there should be understanding among Arab countries over the Iraqi question and there should be a consensus on saving the Iraqi people.

Q: Did you have contacts with Hussein Kamel before he came to settle in Jordan?

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Q: Did Uday Saddam Hussein come to make peace with

full rights. I believe that we should seek a meeting by representatives of the three elements within a national reconciliation framework. Such a meeting will help draw the main outlines for the country's future and so secure its sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity.

There is no alternative to a new formula and a new thinking for achieving the objective of rescuing Iraq and its people from their present plight.

I repeat for the tenth time that I have no personal ambition except to carry out my duty towards this people. I would never accept any offer to assume a leadership position in Iraq. But I will continue to extend a helping hand to the Iraqi people with all my might and I will continue to act as my conscience compels me to act to help save the Iraqis from their suffering and dangers.

Should the present situation persist, parties surrounding Iraq could be encouraged to exploit the situation for their own interest at the expense of Iraqi land and this would pose a new challenge to Arab leaders.

Q: Is there a Jordanian plan for Iraq's future?

A: This is my view and remarks about the situation in Iraq. I stand by the Iraqi people and call for national reconciliation, for political, ethnic and factional pluralism in Iraq and a situation that would help Iraq come out safe and sound out of the

present situation.

Q: What do you say about people's talk about Jordan's influence in Iraq?

A: I hope there is influence that would be a positive one to help the Iraqis. People ask if we have changed our position. Our position remains the same from the start. We hope to convince the Iraqi leadership through dialogue of our ideas that will help Iraq avoid dangers.

Q: Why was Syria angered when you welcomed Hussein Kamel?

A: I have no explanation for this. I have no interest or objective except to help save the Iraqi people from their plight but our Arab brothers might have other views and perhaps some ambitions of which I am not aware. Had Hussein Kamel gone to another country including Syria I would not have been angered. Indeed I find no justification for anger.

Q: Did you inform the other Arab countries of Hussein Kamel's defection?

A: As soon as he came I contacted Saudi Arabia through a message I sent to King Fahd but no others.

Q: Do you think Syria's anger resulted from Jordan's views with regard to the peace process?

A: Jordanians will remain with their heads raised high. We will never be subject to the desires of any other party and we will do all that which keeps our conscience at rest. We do not believe in idolising individuals

but we believe in our people. What is being said about us, being a toy in the hands of other nations, is totally untrue. We never compromise on our dignity or our rights.

Q: What about the rumours alleging the creation of new alliances following the defection?

A: We have no objectives and we are not oriented to make such alliances against any Arab block.

Q: Do you still have contacts with Syria at present?

A: Contacts are continuing and have never been disrupted.

Q: Egypt has shown its dismay. What happened?

A: I have no explanation for this. It was noticed that the Egyptians are angered when they are not in the picture about any event in the region.

Q: Do you believe that the Assad-Mubarak summit was directed against Jordan?

A: No, I do not believe so.

Q: What is your answer to views that Jordan is going too far in its dealings with Israel?

A: In my view Jordan is trying to make up for lost time and hoping through this relation to convince Israel that coexistence can offer a great service to all. The Israelis have been apprehensive about the Arab atmosphere around them. This naturally affects them. If a just and honourable solution has been found there can be no reason or justification for bilateral relations not to be normal and utilised to offer

the future generations all the good chances for development.

Q: Do you plan to dissolve Parliament?

A: No. I am unaware of what talk of this kind.

Q: Are you not afraid that sabotage activity might happen as a result of court verdicts against fundamentalists because of your stand vis-a-vis Iraq?

A: We have coexisted with dangers and challenges. This is part of our life. Things might happen any time as there are many parties active in this region and elsewhere in the world. But I have absolute confidence in the majority of the Jordanian people's awareness and appreciation of their interests.

Q: What is your view about Israeli buying land in Jordan. What is your view?

A: Such issue is restricted through laws and regulations. Any talk in this matter is baseless.

Q: Do you expect from the Amman summit meeting?

A: I believe it will offer us a good chance to open up to the future. The world is viewing this region through a sound and peaceful perspective whose dividends are bound to achieve great deal to all parties.

Q: Will the Muslim Brotherhood enter the government?

A: The government is staying. The Muslim Brotherhood had entered the government in the past. If they believe in the state's policies and are ready to conform to them I do not see any reason to prevent their joining the government.

justice to have any authority over the judiciary.

Lawyer Fares Nabulsi criticised the minister for stating that the judges' resignation was politically motivated.

"It is as if we have gone back to the martial era, with citizens accused of belonging to banned parties while the judges have taken their decision without being influenced by any party," Mr. Nabulsi, a former deputy, said.

## Cabinet meets today on judges

(Continued from page 1)

Minister of Justice Hisham Tal that the independence of the judicial authority could not be complete unless all means of a comfortable life are available for the judges.

Another lawyer, Saleh Arnouti, called on the government not only to meet the demands of the judges but

## Balkan ministers adopt plan

(Continued from page 1)

from Muslim nations Thursday backed the Bosnian peace initiatives by the Contact Group as well as continued air strikes to force an end to the Serb siege of Sarajevo.

In their first meeting with the contact group plus Canada, Spain, Italy, ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) welcomed the more forceful U.N. and NATO stance but said it was high time.

Tuesday's test and the Tahiti riots meant it was expected the heads of the forum's 15 governments, who meet in Papua New Guinea earlier next week, will consider whether to withdraw the invitation, Mr. Sasaki said.

Nauru has called for France's expulsion from the meeting.

## S.Pacific anger hits France

(Continued from page 1)

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette said he was "deeply shocked" by the presence of Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura at an anti-nuclear protest in Tahiti last weekend.

Meanwhile, soccer stars in Italy, including two French internationals, will remove their team shirts at the end of Sunday's first division league matches to reveal.

"No to Nuclear Tests." T-shirts worn underneath, the environmentalist group Greenpeace said.

## Murayama to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

support Jordan's role in the peace process."

"We attach great importance to the role of Jordan in the region and are keen to do what we could to help strengthen it," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. In an earlier interview, the ambassador highlighted that under the Tokyo Declaration, issued during a visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Japanese capital in May, Japan considers the Kingdom as the "gateway to the Middle East."

Japan chairs the working group on the environment, one of the five working groups of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. It also plays a key role in water-related issues and regional economic cooperation designed to support and consolidate the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The missions continued throughout the day yesterday and will continue all day (Friday)," said spokeswoman Anna Cansano.

U.N. military spokesman Chris Vernon told reporters at a morning briefing in Sarajevo that escalating the air campaign was "under consideration as we talk." He added that NATO had been "restraining (its) target lists to see if the (Bosnian Serbs) will react to a lower pain threshold."

NATO planes, he added, had already begun targeting roads and bridges in eastern Bosnia, a hilly and mountainous area with a pre-war Muslim majority that borders Serbia.

In Belgrade, news agencies said two people were killed and several more wounded following NATO raids overnight in eastern Bosnia, including Foca and Kalinovik, where a person was killed in each and bridges were destroyed.

Japanese officials also indicated recently that the Tokyo government was considering "some kind of a formula under which Jordan's debt burden could be further reduced." The formula could be on a bilateral level as well as on a multilateral level with the Paris Club of creditor governments.

## Jordan invites Belgians to invest

(Continued from page 12)

water, telecommunications, industrial zones, all supported by well developed banking and financial services.

"Jordan's economic and social achievements took place notwithstanding the different external shocks that we experienced such as the decline in oil prices and Arab aid, and the two Gulf wars. However, with the support of its friends, Jordan managed to face the challenges in a pragmatic manner. The economic recovery was far better than what was envisaged by many. With the breakthrough in the peace process, economic recovery is expected to take on a special momentum reflecting the positive impact of peace on the investment climate in Jordan and the region.

"Peace making has taken enormous efforts and commitment from the parties involved in the process. Sustaining this peace is an even more formidable task. The present reconciliation of positions put an end to past enmity and paved the way for future friendship. Jordan has done and is still doing all it can to make the peace process a success. It is actively promoting regional economic development and cooperation which is the essence of achieving durable and lasting peace.

"All partners have to work together to pool efforts to enjoy what we all aspire for namely: a conflict free region living in prosperity. A region where the dividends of peace politically, socially and economically are distributed equitably among its peoples. A region which actively participates in a regional process of security and cooperation. A region that offers free movement of peoples, goods and capital.

"Peace brings with it expectations for a better and more stable future. We will overcome this crisis."

Mr. Peres said the sides had resolved several economic issues and reached an agreement on water rights — in which the amount of water supplied to Palestinians in the West Bank would be doubled over five years from 30 million to 60 million cubic metres a year.

He said no agreement was reached on sharing the electricity grid in the West Bank and that the Palestinians had proposed international arbitration.

The Palestinians are also dissatisfied with the size of the areas Israel was offering to vacate around the other towns slated for autonomy — Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Israel TV said the PLO demanded a 40 per cent

## Iraq wants to maintain strong ties with Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Saddam for another seven-year term and his candidacy to be approved by a special session of parliament opening Sunday.

The reelection of President Saddam — unchallenged as head of state since July 1979 — will then go to a referendum to be held within two months, under a change to the July 1970 constitution agreed Thursday.

"It is a farce and a desperate attempt by the regime to improve the image of a power that never knew democracy or human rights," Gen. Kamel said.

The Iraqi people, he added, "have the right to a democracy and is capable of choosing a direction that will save it from suffering and repair the errors of the last decades."

"We want a real democracy and we will not allow anyone to empty it of its contents," said the general, who called for toppling the Baghdad government shortly after his defection. "We demand the establishment of a multi-party system, free presidential and legislative elections, freedom of the press and independent courts."

"Jordan has been working on restructuring its economy. Laws to encourage investment and laws pertaining to developing free zones are being revised. The laws on the protection of intellectual property rights are under consideration paving the way for the impending accession of Jordan to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and for a closer partnership with the EU."

"The central location of Jordan in the Middle East, and between Europe, Africa and Asia, and its political stability are added advantages that make Jordan a place to look to if you are intending to do business in this region. In brief, Ladies and Gentlemen, Jordan is the gateway to business in the Middle East."

## Israel, PLO remain in impasse

(Continued from page 1)

"There is a crisis in the talks," said Mr. Sarid, who is environment minister. "The crisis is mainly over the Hebrew issue. We will overcome this crisis."

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## U.N. extends Iraq sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Last month, after the defection to Jordan of its weapons chief, Iraq disclosed an ambitious biological weapons programme. It admitted having 199 missiles and bombs tipped with germ warfare agents, and a crash programme to make a nuclear weapon.

In July, Iraq admitted for the first time having germ stockpiles, including anthrax and botulism cultures. The information came after U.N. inspectors found 500,000 litres of biological agents.</

## Arab Gulf states seek stronger control of banks

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — Arab Gulf states are seeking to tighten their grip on their wealthy banking sector to avert fresh financial crises and bring banks in line with international standards, officials have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control 45 per cent of the world's oil, have created a joint committee to supervise bank activities and upgrade auditing by their central banks and the commercial banks.

The measures are part of overall reforms in the banking system aimed at expanding its capital base and preventing a repetition of a crippling bad debt crisis that forced several banks to merge in mid-1980s to stave off collapse.

The reforms were triggered by new banking rules issued by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) for banks worldwide and they gained momentum following the 1991 collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

GCC central bank governors are due to discuss the measures at a meeting after annual talks in Damascus on Saturday by central bank chiefs from the 22-member Arab League, the official Gulf news agency reported.

The GCC central bank governors will meet in Damascus on Sunday to discuss developments in their banking sector, especially reports by technical committees on strengthening auditing on

banks," it said.

GCC states hope such measures would convince the BIS's Basic Committee of dropping them from a list of high-risk countries in lending activities.

Saudi Arabia was the only Arab state to have been excluded from that list on the grounds it was the fifth biggest creditor to the World Bank.

The other GCC members — Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have said they would press ahead with banking reforms, including incentives for merging banks.

"Merger is one of the best means to consolidate the banking sector and create large units capable of facing competition," director of the Muscat stock exchange, Mahmoud Al Jarwani, told AFP by telephone.

Incentives in Oman have so far resulted in the merger of two main national banks while other banks are considering following suit. Authorities have also instructed banks to raise capital to at last \$26 million.

The UAE has carried out the most sweeping reforms, telling its 47 banks they should report to the central bank regularly on their financial position.

It has also set a floor of 40 million dirhams (\$10.89 million) for the capital of each bank and introduced curbs on lending within a series of measures that also affected other financial and investment bodies.

"We are not interfering in

the business of banks but we believe it is time to exercise some kind of monitoring on them in this age, where only strong banking units will survive," a Gulf central bank official said.

Bankers said the reforms benefited banks as they would strengthen them in face of international competition following the creation of the World Trade Organisation, which replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Stronger supervision on banks will prevent fresh crises that have negatively affected the Gulf banking sector. This will create a more solid, healthier banking system," a UAE bank manager said.

"Such measures are also needed to face competition from giant international banking units which will seek to spread their services across the boundaries in line with the GATT free trade pact."

GCC states have explained such reforms to Basile Committee during two rounds of negotiations. Officials said they had told it that most Gulf banks now exceeded the eight per cent level defined by Basile as a floor for bank capital adequacy, the ratio between assets and shareholders' equity.

Touring a homeless children's shelter that receives U.S. aid, the American first lady said the benefits of the centre showed how important foreign aid could be.

Countering conservative Republicans in Congress who want deep cuts in foreign aid spending, Mrs. Clinton told reporters,

"Many Americans do not know that we spend so little money helping other countries."

She said foreign aid was just "one per cent of our entire federal budget and it serves humanitarian purposes and fosters democracy."

"I think most Americans, if they knew this fact, would be very proud of our country because of what we are trying

## CBJ studying issuance of a JD 50 banknote

By Ziyad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is seriously considering the issuance of a JD 50 banknote, CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi told the Arabic daily *Al Ra'*.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ was also studying the issuance of small denominations, because of their long circulation life span which could reach up to 50 years. He indicated that the new one JD coin would reduce the high cost of printing banknotes, which only have a year-long circulation life. The new one JD coin, he said, was meant to meet the daily needs of citizens for this small denomination of currency.

The CBJ official said it was too early to change the banknotes currently in circulation just to avoid counterfeit, noting that banknotes counterfeited was a global phenomenon, which was not restricted to the Jordanoian banknotes, irrespective of how perfect they are.

Dr. Nabulsi said the paper used in printing the banknotes was of a very high quality and that there was no need now to change the notes since the CBJ had changed all the banknotes in 1993.

In a reference to the recently issued one JD note, Dr. Nabulsi said: "We have not changed anything except adding the phrase 'the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan' in both Arabic and English."

to do help others around the world, particularly others in countries that are struggling to be like we are," she said.

U.S. foreign aid totals about \$10 billion, down from \$16 billion a decade ago.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has been insisting that current levels maintained but congressional Republicans have been pushing for cuts of at least 20 per cent annually.

The White House, hoping to generate political support for current levels of funding, has been stressing that most aid has been directed at programmes intended to deal with immediate human sufferings.

Underscoring that theme, Hillary Clinton toured the four-year-old centre for street children, where more than 2,000 children receive care and refuge.

The centre will receive

some of the \$1 million in aid for children's health programme in Mongolia which she announced on her arrival Thursday.

## Dollar hits 100 yen

## Japan cuts key interest rate to new all-time low of 0.5%

**TOKYO (R)** — Japan's central bank slashed its key lending rate by half Friday to a new all-time low of 0.5 per cent to bolster the country's flagging economy.

Within two hours of the cut in the official discount rate, the dollar reached the 100-yen level for the first time since January. The rise was helped by aggressive dollar buying intervention by the Bank of Japan.

The Tokyo stock market's Nikkei average also soared,

rising more than four percent to 18,442.39 by mid-afternoon.

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) last cut the key lending rate to its previous record low of one per cent in April.

The central bank also said it was twinning the cut in the key lending rate with a move to guide short-term rates lower in the money market.

"The Bank of Japan expects that these decisions will lead to a further decline in interest rates across the board, thereby contributing to a steady recovery of the economy with price stability," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo.

In Washington, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin quickly welcomed the BOJ move, and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to cooperate closely in currency markets with Japan and other leading industrial nations.

"We welcome the actions taken by the Japanese authorities to ease monetary conditions," Mr. Rubin said in a statement. "These actions which are consistent with the objectives of the April 25 G-7 (Group of Seven) communiqué, should

help contribute to conditions that would promote a recovery in domestic demand (in Japan), greater financial stability and a continuation of recent developments in exchange markets."

Analysts — who had expected the move, but thought it might not come so soon — said lower interest rates were needed to kick-start the economy, keep the yen on a downward track and provide relief to Japan's troubled banking sector.

Economists said it should follow by hefty government spending to boost domestic demand. "We have to see how they perform on the fiscal side and see whether we get similar decisive measures," Mr. Koll said.

Japanese leaders have pledged to unveil around Sept. 20 a package of steps to stimulate the economy back on track and provide relief to the financial institutions by improving profit margins.

"The monetary side we have a full commitment to reflate — these are decisive steps to try to kick-start the economy," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo.

"By aggressively cutting interest rates they are helping the financial system because of lower funding costs," he said.

"What you're going to see

is the positive impact from monetary policy over the next 18 months," said Russell Jones, chief economist at Lehman Brothers Japan.

"I'm quite optimistic about the ability of the economy to recover."

But the credit easing will hardly solve all of Japan's economic problems, many of which are structural rather

than merely the result of a cyclical downturn, economists said.

"Of course it helps... it's necessary to ensure that the economy makes progress rather than regresses," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd in Tokyo.

"It's necessary but not sufficient," he said.

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## Lloyd's appears to have passed solvency test

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading edged up a little and stock prices gained over two per cent this week at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as the bourse overcame fears of a break in trade links with Iraq and picked up on the endorsement of key laws that liberalise the economy, brokers said Friday. The weekly report of the AFM said turnover for the week was 4.2 million dinars, up 7.7 per

cent from the previous week's 3.8 million dinars. The report said 2.4 million shares changed hands under 3,108 contracts during the week and the average daily trading was 840,000 dinars, compared with the previous week's 780,000 dinars.

The official AFM index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed for the week at 156.4 points, up 1.4 points or 0.9 per cent. However, brokers said the gains were around two per cent, given the improvement

of shares of companies outside the index.

Separate sectoral indices showed that services shares rose by 2.7 points, or 2.1 per cent, banks and financial institutions by 2.3 points, or 1.2 per cent, and industrials by 0.2 points or 0.22 per cent. Insurance stocks dipped by 0.3 points or 0.2 per cent.

Banks and financial institutions accounted for 40.6 per cent of the weekly volume with 1.73 million dinars, followed by industrials with 1.69 million dinars, or 39.9 per cent, and services sector with 760,000 dinars, or 17.9 per cent, and

insurance firms with 60,000 dinars.

The week saw stocks of 90 companies being traded. As business closed for the week, 43 of them had gained, 31 slipped and 16 remained unchanged.

Brokers said the market was cautious early in the week, looking for signs of the fallout of a strain in political ties with Iraq on the economic front after Jordan granted asylum to two high-ranking Iraqi defectors and criticised the policies of the Iraqi regime.

Fears that Baghdad might

retaliate by suspending trade links with Jordan failed to materialise as the flow of Iraqi oil continued to Jordan and Jordanian exports of food and medicine also was not interrupted.

Any development in ties with Iraq has an immediate impact on the local market since Iraq accounts for about \$420 million in Jordan's exports, representing 40 per cent of the Kingdom's exports excluding phosphates and potash.

"The market seems to have understood that the flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan and the

**Business Daily Beat**

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Amman Governorate budget for 1996 estimated at JD 81.8m

\* \* THE ESTIMATED 1996 budget for Amman Governorate amounts to JD 81,857,000 which will be allocated to implement developmental projects either new or carried over from last year. Of the total, JD 67,243,000 will be from local financing and JD 14,614,000 from loans. New projects will receive JD 55,467,000 while projects carried over from this year will get JD 26,390,000.

The education sector was given JD 15.8 million, or 19.3 per cent of the overall amount, to build schools in Jabal Al Nasr, Al Hashemi and Al Janoubi, Al Jubeiba, Monwaqqar and Iraq Al Amer.

The health sector received

JD 7.5 million (9.1 per cent) and will benefit Al Bashir Hospital and setting up health centres in Monwadar, Irenbar, Thubayeh, Zunayeh and other locations.

The social development sector was given JD 208,000 to be spent on a centre for the retarded in Marj Al Hamam.

To build a sports complex in Sahab and four youth centres elsewhere, the sector youth got JD 1.9 million.

A single environmental project for a dump of dangerous waste was allocated JD 1.5 million.

The sports sector received

JD 2.4 million, or 2.9 per cent of the total amount, mainly to build an annex to the football warehouse in Jiza and expand Juweidieh mill.

To conduct maintenance and preservation for Amman's Citadel and Roman Amphitheater, the tourism and antiquities sector was allocated JD 104,000.

Civil defence projects in Naour, Mnhajireen, Abu Nusr, Jabal Al Taj and Al Hussein Camp will receive JD 1.6 million.

Road projects at various locations took JD 12.7 million, or about 15.5 per cent of the total budget.

For expanding the tele-

phone network in Tla' Al Ali, Abdoun, Al Rasheed, Tareed, Abu Alanda, Sahab, Wadi Sagra and Suweileh, the communications sector was allo-

cated JD 9.9 million, or 12 per cent of the budget.

The postal sector was

budgeted JD 439,000 to open post offices in Monwadar, Manara, Marka and the urban housing estate.

The largest allocation went

for the water sector with JD 22.6 per cent (27.6 per cent)

to improve the water networks in Jabal Husseini, Al Zubour and Al Nuzaah, build a reservoir in Al Qastal and a pumping station in Nazzal.

Agriculture was budgeted

JD 92,700 to develop highlands in different locations and for the annual afforestation project.

Finally, the electricity sec-

tor would benefit of JD 4.4 million (5.5 per cent) to elec-

trify nine villages and other projects (Al Dostour).

\*\* PRICES OF crystallised

and iodised salt recently fixed

and announced by the Minis-

try of Supply do not cover the

refined salt produced by

Amra and Al Azraq plants.

The new price affects only

the Yara brand salt. Sources

point out that this type of

crystallised (white homo-

gous) salt has not been

priced by the ministry and a

kilogramme was selling for

JD 0.350. In light of a study

on production cost, the

ministry fixed the price at JD

0.190 which includes a 25 per

cent profit margin. Prices of

salt from the Amra and Al

Azraq plants remain at JD

0.130 per kilogramme and a

preliminary study has shown

that this price will not be

increased (Al Dostour).

## Share trading, prices improve at AFM

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1995

Kingdom's exports to Iraq are not going to be affected in the short-term said a broker. "With that in mind speculators looked for local signs and picked up on the passage of the sales tax law and income tax law."

"On the while fears of losses as a result of a strain with Iraq were subdued by the positive signs on the local front," commented the broker. "Barring any new developments on the Iraqi front, Jordanoian shares should be gaining from now until the end of the year," predicted the broker.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOLDING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIA TELEPHONE: 607171 / 667178 ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/08/1995 - 06/09/1995) WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHARGE
JALID BANK PLC	905,030	224.000	224.000	228.080	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	96,830	4.580	4.510	4.500	
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	1,575	4.540	4.510	4.500	
BANK OF JORDAN	16,235	3.400	2.400	2.000	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	97,700	1.200	1.200	1.160	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	21,317	2.500	2.500	2.500	
THE HOUSING BANK	32,767	5.710	5.710	5.700	
JORDAN EXIM BANK	87,145	2.800	2.800	2.770	
JORDAN OIL CO. LTD.	31,870	1.100	1.100	1.120	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	48,910	3.750	3.750	3.730	
UNITED BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,500	4.130	4.130	4.050	
BUSINESS BANK	4,505	3.870	3.870	3.820	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCE BANK	22,884	4.060	4.060	4.000	
BRITISH MEHAL INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	14,033	3.380	3.380	3.200	
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	330,183	8.850	8.950	9.980	
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	910	5.400	5.400	5.400	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	25,481	1.540	1.540	1.560	
BANKS SECTOR					
	172,797	INDEX NUMBER: 125.81			
		CHANGE: + 41.23%			
JORDANIAN INSURANCE					
	820	4.100	4.100	4.100	
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS					
	8,414	2.820	2.620	2.600	
YAMKOUR INSURANCE & INSURANCE					
	24,050	3.800	2.600	3.100	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE					
	24,000	2.600	2.600	2.600	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
	39,772	INDEX NUMBER: 125.89			
		CHANGE: + 0.21%			
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER					
	95,936	1.610	1.610	1.630	
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM					
	1,687	8.300	8.300	8.300	
IRIBAD ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY					
	114	1.190	1.190	1.160	
JORDAN MINERALS					
	250	2.500	2.500	2.500	
VEHICLE OWNERS PROTECTION					
	8,843	6.900	6.900	7.000	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS					
	138,292	5.300	5.300	5.600	
JORDAN NATIONAL EXPORTING LINES					
	9,271	2.710	2.710	2.730	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES					
	32,613	2.060	2.060	2.130	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT					
	700	1.030	1.030	1.000	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER					
	13,342	1.170	1.170	1.170	
MACHINERY SUPPLY, RENTING & MAINTENANCE					
	160	0.630	0.610	0.640	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMAZ					



Michael Chang of the U.S. returns a shot to Jim Courier during their U.S. Open quarter-final match (AFP photo)

## Courier, Seles, Sampras advance Agassi, Becker meet in semifinal today

**NEW YORK (Agencies)** — Fourteenth seed Jim Courier fought off tenacious fifth-seed Michael Chang for three tight sets Thursday night to advance to the U.S. Open semifinals where he will face two-time champion Pete Sampras.

In each set, Chang had Courier on the ropes and every time he fought his way out of danger to score the 7-6, 7-6, 7-5 knockout.

"Usually, I'm the one ahead and he fights back. This time it was the other way around," said former world number one Courier after advancing to the U.S. Open semifinals for the first time since 1992.

"I let him serve for the set in all three sets and broke him all three times," said the 1991 open runner-up, whose ranking is down to 15th.

"I consider this a big step in the right direction."

Earlier on Thursday, second seed Sampras ended the dream run of 70th-ranked

Zimbabwean Byron Black, powering his way into the final four with a 7-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory.

"Today he really blew me off the court," said Black, who had upset eighth seed Michael Stich and ninth seed Thomas Enqvist in the round-robin stage of their thrilling Wimbledon semifinal earlier this year.

But with Agassi and Sampras getting all the attention here, Chang and Courier — the two forgotten Americans — battled for three hours and seven minutes under a full moon and reminded fans they are capable of extremely exciting, high quality tennis.

It was their 18th career meeting and Chang had taken three of four this year to grab a 9-8 edge. But in

their first encounter on the Grand Slam stage, it was Courier, the two-time French and Australian Open champion who came up big on the big points.

And while Chang thrilled the packed Louis Armstrong Stadium crowd with his remarkable retrievals, it was his mistakes that will stick with him.

"I was serving for all three sets. I should have capitalised on one of those opportunities at the least, so it's a little disappointing not being able to come through," Chang said.

If the trend of the 1990s at the Open continues, Courier has every reason to be optimistic.

For the past four years, the player who beat Chang has gone on to win the title.

Meanwhile, Monica Seles reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open with a 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 victory over Jana Novotna that turned on four pivotal points at the end of the first set.

The way Seles played those points, the grit she showed while under pressure for the first time in 10 matches over two tournaments, may also be the determining factor when she plays against Conchita Martinez, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 victor over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

In an even closer and much longer match, 1989 men's champion Boris Becker reached the semifinals by surviving the longest duel of the tournament - 4 hours, 7 minutes - against Patrick McEnroe, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6).

Becker, who closed the match with his 30th ace, will play defending champion Andre Agassi, a 6-4, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 winner over Peter Korda.

Agassi, who played indifferently in the third set, clawed back from two breaks down at 1-4 in the fourth, fought off two set-points at 4-5 and broke korda again to score his 25th consecutive victory.

## Indurain begins training for World Championships

**BOULDER, Colorado (AP)** — Miguel Indurain, the first man to win five straight Tour de France titles, has begun high-altitude training here in preparation for the Oct. 8 World Championships in Colombia.

Indurain and his Banesto teammate arrived earlier this week and will train here about 10 days before moving to a higher altitude — possibly Summit County — for another 10 days of training.

They have made University Bicycles their home base in Boulder.

"Unbelievable," said bike shop owner Doug Emerson. "To buy guys like that in the shop is great. You get goosebumps just being around them."

Emerson said his shop will provide the Banesto cyclists whatever they need while they are in Boulder.

"How often do you get a chance like this?" he asked.

The Banesto team will wind up its training stint in Colorado in late September with a race in Colorado Springs before heading to Duitama, Colombia.

The team, includes Indurain, his brother Prudencio and four other teammates, including Andy Hampsten of Boulder.

Hampsten will train with Banesto for the World Championships, but will not ride with the Spanish team in Colombia. Instead, he will ride with the U.S. Squad, now training near Winter Park.

Indurain won his fifth straight Tour title this summer to establish the record for consecutive victories.

## Celtics will not challenge Wilkins deal

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Boston Celtics and the American National Basketball Association will not stop Dominique Wilkins from playing next season in Greece, where he has signed for two years for a reported \$8 million, according to a published report.

Wilkins, 35, had two years left on the contract he signed with the Celtics as a free agent before last season. It reportedly would have paid him \$8.4 million for the next two years.

But he had a disappointing season, averaging 17.8 points per game, and his departure enables the Celtics to spend about \$3.65 million under the salary cap — which was reserved for Wilkins — to sign new players.

The NBA looked into the situation: "but once both sides agreed that the contract was over, our response to Dominique was that you are free and clear to play overseas," the Globe quoted Jeffrey Mishkin, the NBA executive vice president for business and legal affairs, as saying.

The win put Turkey on 13

points, one behind Switzerland, with games remaining against lowly Iceland and third-placed Sweden, who are out of the running.

Switzerland, held 0-0 by the Swedes, have one match left.

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## Jordan invites Belgian businessmen to invest

**'Kingdom ideal for investments after peace, restructured economy and changed laws'**

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has done the groundwork to make its investment climate attractive to capital and now looks forward to foreign firms investing in projects in the Kingdom, which in reality represents a gateway to Middle East. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has told Belgian and European businessmen.

"We invite the private sector in Belgium and Europe to invest in projects in Jordan and the region," the Crown Prince said in a speech delivered on his behalf by Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser in Brussels, Belgium.

The address was made at a forum organised by the Belgian-Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Belgian Businessmen Association ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman next month.

"Jordan has a well-developed infrastructure, banking and financial system, legal environment and educated and trainable manpower," the Crown Prince said in the speech, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "In addition, revisions and amendments to laws and regulations are

underway and we feel that Jordan will present itself at the (MENA) summit as a leading country in investment opportunities with the proper climate and incentives for investments."

The Crown Prince noted that the main goal of the Casablanca summit held last year was to look regional structures and policies while the Amman summit "will be specific, more focused on private sector participation" in projects.

"It will be geared to investment" and will "concentrate on a selected group of industries, allow for product matching and establish a data for future business activities."

Following are major excerpts from the speech:

"With a population of just over four million, and striving to make up in quality what we lacked in quantity, a large part of public investments went to the development of human resources. As a result, Jordan is currently endowed with a relatively highly trained and skilled manpower that helped build not only Jordan but many countries in our region. Our political stability and resilience had, in turn, a noticeable positive impact on our economic development."

"Parallel progress was made in industrial infrastructure such as road networks, (Continued on page 7)

## France probes new blast amid tightened security

LYON, France (AFP) — France tightened security at schools and public buildings nationwide Friday as police probed the wreckage of a car bomb in Lyon in search of a lead in a six-week-old bomb campaign which has left seven dead and more than 100 injured.

The focus of the investigation switched to Lyon after the car bomb, blast Thursday outside a Jewish school in Villeurbanne, an industrial town near Lyon. Thirteen people were injured in the explosion, one seriously, according to a final toll given by police.

The bomb made from a gas canister, went off just minutes before the school's 700 pupils were due to go home after finishing lessons. Police said that if it had gone off 10 minutes later there would have been "carnage."

Education Minister Francois Bayrou said Friday that the government had ordered security to be tightened up at schools throughout the country. He told police to see that there was "no parking" outside schools and to make sure that pupils did "not congregate" outside the gates.

In Lyon, the school targeted in Thursday's attack remained closed Friday and police said lessons had been suspended indefinitely.

Police said a wide area round the site of the expl-

## Kabul: Taliban assault thwarted

KABUL (Agencies) — The beleaguered Afghan government fought off a Taliban offensive on Kabul's western frontline, while a key rival faction Friday warned that any military plane bringing supplies from Tajikistan would be shot down.

The Defence Ministry said troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani repulsed a night-time infantry offensive by the Taliban against the western frontlines guarding Kabul.

"The Taliban launched three unsuccessful assaults at us last night," the official said.

The wreckage of another car which was set on fire and gutted in the blast, was being towed by firemen. Other firemen were scouring a nearby cafe in search of other debris.

At Friday noon, people living near the scene of the explosion had not yet been allowed to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, police were patrolling the Lyon subway carrying out identity controls and at a shopping centre near Villeurbanne, police were searching all bags as a precaution.

## Scores said arrested after Benghazi clash

SALLOUM, Egypt (AFP) — Libyan security forces have made dozens of arrests to restore order in Benghazi after clashes with Muslim militants that killed around 30 people, travellers arriving at this border point said Friday.

They said dozens of suspects were picked up in Benghazi as well as three other eastern towns, Derna, Tuberu and Al Bayda.

An Arab diplomat posted in Cairo, meanwhile, dismissed a Libyan denial of the unrest and backed up reports that some 20 militants and 10 policemen had been killed in Benghazi during clashes on Wednesday and Thursday.

The clashes erupted after a row between Islamist cab driver and a policeman moonlighting as a taxi driver, according to travellers from Libya at the Egyptian border post of Saloum.

They said security forces intervened on the side of the policeman and sparked armed battles with Islamists in the streets of Benghazi.

The fighting took place in three districts: Al Fawatir, Al Massanqun and Qawarshah, said a spokesman for the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL).

But a Justice Ministry official in Tripoli dismissed the reports of deadly clashes, saying police had only arrested three drug traffick-

ers.

"The reports from the Western media of clashes are nothing but lies," he told AFP late Thursday. "It was just a police pursuit and the arrest of three drug traffickers."

The travellers said police stepped up raids Thursday for arms caches in Benghazi and set up checkpoints along the coastal highway between Tobruk and Masaad, a Libyan port on the border with Egypt.

Trucks crossing from both Tunisia and Egypt — Libya's access to the outside world because of a U.N. air traffic ban over the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing — have been subject to rigorous searches for hidden weapons, they added.

Some travellers said that men with beards — part of the dress-code of Muslim fundamentalists — were being rounded up. Landlords now have to seek authorisation to let homes to Egyptian or Sudanese tenants, others said.

It was the second time in three months that violence has been reported between Islamists and police in the Mediterranean coastal region of Benghazi.

Clashes broke out in late June in the area followed by security sweeps further west in Jdeida and the administrative capital Sirte.



**SOUTH PACIFIC ANGER:** A Tahitian girl walks through the debris of a burnt shop in Papeete after a rampage by pro-independence and anti-nuclear demonstrators (see page one) (AFP photo)

## NGO forum ends with mixed results, strong participation by Arab women

By Caroline Faraj Special to the Jordan Times

HUAIROU — After 10 days of deliberations and discussion, representatives of international and Arab non-governmental organisations (NGOs) meeting here to prepare and agree on an international agenda for women in the 21st century failed to find solution to major differences between them as individuals, NGOs, countries or religious beliefs.

Despite their agreement on the themes of the meeting — "Development, Equality and Peace" — the 26,549 participants failed to bury their differences and come up with a unified agenda for women for the year 2000 and beyond, according to a statement issued at the conclusion of the NGO forum.

The statement described the forum as a historical breakthrough for women in the world, saying that it provided a unique opportunity for women from various parts of the world to meet and exchange views with world leaders on the status and role

of women.

Representatives from all Arab countries, except Saudi Arabia, took part in the forum, which discussed subjects ranging from politics to economy and human rights. However, Arab delegations were no different from others, and apparently they had to carry their political differences back home.

Despite such differences, the Arab coordinator of the forum, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, described the meeting as successful, saying that it took place in an atmosphere of freedom, openness and clarity.

Dr. Ahu Ghazaleh said Arab women participating in the forum issued a statement expressing their position on the various issues and their adherence to its objectives.

Arab women stressed the important role women can play in ensuring respect for international human rights declarations and conventions and called on Arab countries to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The statement drew attention to the new challenges posed by economic, political and social changes and their negative consequences on women in terms of increased unemployment and poverty and a remarkable increase in the number of women refugees and immigrants and women-headed families.

The statement said the successive economic crises, and the adoption of economic adjustment programmes have led to increased foreign debts, economic recession and increasing unemployment. These factors have serious implications on human rights, including women's rights.

The statement also drew attention to the education gap between men and women and between women in the rural and urban areas, and called for bridging such gaps to enable women to play their full role. They also called on Arab governments to amend legislation with a view to making it consistent with international declarations and conventions.

Arab women participating in the conference also called for addressing women's illiteracy and to make education accessible to men and women alike without discrimination.

They also called for involving women in policy formulation and decision making and in drawing up national plans.

The statement called for gender-sensitive media programmes, taking into consideration the multiple role of women as mothers, working women, wives and a full participant in public life.

The statement also called for sparing women and children from the consequences of economic sanctions.

The statement also stressed the need for observing the 1985 Nairobi Declaration on Women, which stressed, among other things, the right of refugees and displaced women to go back home and to release all women detained for political reasons. It also called for an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

## Bonn probes new death from diet pill

BONN (AFP) — German investigators have launched a probe into another death — the seventh so far — attributed to a diet pill. The inquiry will be carried in the southwestern town of Tübingen into the activities of a doctor in Rotteburg who prescribed the pills, according to local prosecutors, who added that the charges could include homicide and doing involuntary harm through negligence. Concern over the pills was raised when a widow told police that her wife had begun taking them when she was 34 and later died in 1992 of cardiac arrest. The pill is now suspected of having caused the deaths of at least seven people. Authorities in Cologne on Aug. 25 announced that they had detained Dr. Rienhard Jansen and three pharmacists suspected of having produced so-called miracle weight-reducing pills. The unapproved work was alleged to have been conducted since 1993 in a laboratory near Cologne, Herrenkemper Biopharm. Specialists believe the pills were made according to a formula developed by a Belgian doctor, Yvan Coesens, who is currently being sought by police.

Bonnie may be closed because of fire danger

"I can say that no Palestinian was expelled," the PLO's ambassador in Tripoli, Ali Mohammad Mustapha, told Reuters on the telephone.

"No one Palestinian has been affected so far, and the truth is that the Libyan people are housing the Palestinians as always," Mr. Mustapha added.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a PLO faction, blasted Col. Qaddafi's call to Arab states.

"We don't agree with this appeal and we consider it as not suitable... because (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin rejects the right to return (to Palestinian lands) for Palestinian refugees and deportees," Mr. Hawatmeh told a press conference in Tunis on Wednesday night.

Unnamed Palestinian officials in Gaza said on Sunday that 450 Palestinians were expelled through the Egyptian border at the end of August.

But Mr. Mustapha said an undetermined number of Palestinians who left Libya recently did so voluntarily. As a way to put more pressure on the PLO, Col. Qaddafi had threatened last year to deport 30,000 Palestinians but so far no mass expulsions have been reported.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S. to cut \$1.1b from Israel's loan guarantees

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The United States will cut \$1.1 billion from loan guarantees to Israel as a penalty for the Jewish state's investments in West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements, the finance ministry said Thursday. The guarantees, which enable Israel to raise loans on U.S. financial markets at low rates of interest, will be reduced by about \$500 million over the next three years, treasury official Shai Talmon said. Washington reduced the guarantees by \$217 million for 1995 and by \$437 million in 1994. The figures are estimates of Israel's spending in the settlements on occupied territory despite the government's 1992 pledge of a freeze. The penalties mean Israel will be able to raise \$8.9 billion between 1994 and 1998 instead of the planned \$10 billion. The guarantees were agreed by President George Bush in 1992 to help Israel settle immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union. Some 600,000 people have arrived since the Kremlin opened the gates in 1989.

### U.S. reports new arms sales in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defense officials informed Congress Thursday of new contracts in the Middle East worth some \$1.35 billion. The Pentagon said the contracts include an \$850 million maintenance and training agreement with the Royal Saudi Air Force and a \$500 million deal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support Saudi defense logistics. Additionally, documents said Egypt would buy 540 TOW guided missile launchers for \$43 million, and Jordan would purchase four UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopters for \$67 million.

### Israeli colonel issued 'illegal work permits'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The army said Thursday it was investigating a colonel suspected of illegally giving Palestinians from the Gaza Strip permits to work in Israel. Police were also called in to investigate Col. Ami Nagar, head of the liaison unit with the Palestinians at the main Erez crossing into Israel from Gaza. Police spokesman Eric Bar-Cohen said the colonel was suspected of bribes in return for the strictly limited permits. Israel has restricted the number of work permits given to Gazans following a wave of attacks by militants. Permits are only given following a security check to prevent attackers from slipping through Gaza, where 60 per cent of the 850,000 residents are unemployed, relies heavily on Israel as a source of employment.

### Court urged to deny Kurdish MPs' appeal

ANKARA (R) — Turkish prosecutors have urged the constitutional court to turn down an appeal from disenfranchised Kurdish members of parliament (MPs) to be allowed to return to parliament. Anatolian news agency said. The case of the Democracy Party (DEP) deputies, six of whom were jailed last year, has clouded Turkey's prospects for a customs union with the European Union. Anatolian said the chief prosecutor's office had asked the court to reject an appeal from the MP's lawyers who argue that under recent constitutional changes the party's 13 MPs should not have lost their seats when the party was outlawed in 1994. The prosecutor's request could influence the court's ruling on the case set for Sept. 12, parliamentary sources said.

## Lebanon to turn back Palestinians from Libya

they, like thousands of others, had left it to work in other Arab countries," he said.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri issued the order following the return of several hundred Palestinians aboard two boats earlier in the week and the expected arrival of another ship in Beirut port on Friday from Benghazi.

The official justified the order by saying not all the Palestinians had Lebanese travel documents.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has stepped up his campaign to expel the Palestinian expatriate workforce from his country, saying they should go to the West Bank and Gaza.

On Sept. 1, he called on other Arab states to do likewise to prove that the self-rule deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel was a failure.

Palestinians have been forced to pack their bags after Libya refused to renew their work permits.

The Beirut daily Al Nahar reported that Tripoli informed Beirut it planned to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya — half of whom have Lebanese travel documents and are likely to return to Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said he had no such information.

Beirut newspapers said a number of Palestinians expelled by Libya had already arrived in the past few days, arousing concern in Lebanon which already has some 400,000 Palestinians, many of whom are refugees.

The officials justified Mr. Mubarak's order by saying not all the Palestinians had Lebanese travel documents.

But Sultan Abul Aynan, the leader in Lebanon of the PLO's main faction Fatah, dismissed this as a pretext and injustice.

"Lebanon cannot turn back, under any pretext, Palestinians who hold Lebanese travel documents. This is their host country and